**Mrs. Harris’ 7th Grade English Language Arts Syllabus**

Welcome:

Welcome to Mrs. Harris’ 7th grade ELA course for 2017 - 2018! I am very excited to work with both you and your student throughout the course of the year. Together I know that we will build positive relationships and have fun in the classroom.

Instructional Philosophy:

Students learn in many different ways.  Many instructional strategies will be used in an attempt to meet the needs of all students. Classes often begin with teacher-led instruction and are then broken down into smaller segments, such as pairs, groups, or individual assignments.  Students are expected to actively participate in learning through real-world experiences and through lessons in which the content is related to their everyday lives. High quality work is required and expected. For the purpose of differentiating instruction, students may be grouped in various sizes for specific assignments. Each student will receive an individual grade and/or a group grade for work completed.

I have an open door policy on all of my classroom assignments and homework. If students find that they are experiencing difficulty on an assignment it is their responsibility to seek out the help that they need. If a student fails to complete an assignment and fails to seek the help they need then they will receive a grade that reflects that circumstance.

Communication:

There are several ways you will receive communication from me depending on the nature of the information: Google Classroom, Email, phone, TWO Academies website. Please use Parent Portal to check up on student performance at the beginning of each week. Below, you will find information regarding each form of communication.

* *Google Classroom:* This will be my primary means of communication with both your student and yourself. Further information regarding Google Classroom can be found attached to this packet.
* *Email*: stharris@richland2.org
* *Classroom phone number and extension:* (803)-699-2750 Ext. 72131
* *TWO Academies website:* twoacademies.org
* *Richland 2 website:* http://parents.richland2.org/

Course Description/Scope and Sequence:

Students will study a variety of literature; both fiction and nonfiction, in order to further develop, enhance, and refine their skills as a reader, writer, and thinker. This course will provide students with innumerable opportunities to **EXPLORE** various genres of literature through active reading; **CREATE** and **PUBLISH** narrative, poetic, argumentative, informative, and research-based papers and products through writer’s workshop; **DISCUSS** and **DEBATE** the relevance of literary themes in connection with contemporary society and their lives; **SHARE** their knowledge, opinions, ideas, biases, expectations, and questions regarding various selections of literature; **ANALYZE** the organization and functions of language

Seventh-grade students apply skills they have acquired in the earlier grades to read and interpret more challenging texts. Both on their own and with their peers, they read a variety of informational texts as well as four major types of literary texts: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.  They also learn to respond to texts in a variety of ways. In order to read fluently, adolescent students must be able to use word analysis and other interpretive strategies.  As they learn to master texts that use complex vocabulary, they transfer that knowledge of language into their own writing and speaking. In the seventh grade, students use writing to entertain, to inform, to describe, and to argue.  They plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish narrative and expository writing. They pay careful attention to the author’s craft—examining the content and development, the organization, the quality of voice, and the correct use of Standard American English conventions in their own writing and in the writings of others.  They also learn to use a variety of sentence structures to express their thoughts in both oral and written form.  The research process offers adolescents the opportunity to be actively involved in learning about topics that are relevant to their lives and that appeal to their interests.  Seventh graders access information in print and electronic forms and use both primary and secondary sources as reference materials. They distinguish between their own ideas and the ideas of others in their research and in their writing. Using evidence to support the ideas they examine, they properly credit the work of others by documenting the sources they have used.

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| **Quarter One** | Informational texts/research |
| **Quarter Two** | Identity/novel study |
| **Quarter Three** | Writing/novel study |
| **Quarter Four** | Poetry/writing |

Homework Policy:

Students are responsible for completing and turning in all homework on the due date given. During the class, I give ample work time to complete an assignment; however, if a student does not complete the assignment they are responsible for completing it at home. If students turn in their homework late for each day that is late they will receive a deduction of 10% each day that it is late. If an assignment reaches three days past the due date, it will no longer be accepted.

Grading and grading scale:

Grading is based on a weighted point system that is separated into categories. Each category is weighted as follows; classwork (CW): 35%, homework (HW): 10%, tests/projects (T/P): 35%, and quizzes (Q): 20%

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| **Letter grade** | **Numerical average** |
| A | 100-90 |
| B | 89-80 |
| C | 79-70 |
| D | 69-60 |
| F | Below 60 |

Classroom Expectations:

1. All students will be prepared for class (i.e. ID’s visible, all needed supplies, binders, pencils, etc.).
2. All students will be on time for class.
3. All students will respect other members within the community (peers, teachers,guests, etc.); negative comments directed toward other community members will **NOT** be tolerated.
4. All students will act in accordance with the TWO Academies Honor Code and the Richland School District Two handbook.
5. There is a sign out sheet by the door. Mark where you are going, the time you leave, and the time you return. You will be allowed 5 trips during the 9-weeks. When you exceed your 4 trips, you will serve a lunch detention with me to make up valuable class time and a note will be sent home. (Remember, bathroom and water breaks are before school, during class changes, before/during/after lunch, and after school)
6. Homework will be late after the day it is due, students will lose 10 percent each day late, after the 3rd day it will not be accepted.

Consultation:

Consultation will be held every Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. This needs to be by appointment ONLY that need to be scheduled no less than one day prior. Be sure to have transportation in the afternoon by 3:30 sharp.

If a student is retaking a test they will have to pick up a Test Retake form from me. The form will have to be completed and signed by both the student and parent, then returned to me.

Test retakes will be limited to two per quarter per teacher.